

QA-223

Burrisville Methodist Church  
Burrisville

1858

Built just prior to the Civil War, this simple frame structure is an appealing example of mid-19th century rural church architecture. The temple form plan and frame construction are typical of this period, while refinement is accomplished through the use of a few simple but striking decorative details. Corner pilasters, paneled entrance doors, and a large Gothic window all combine to set off the principal gable facade, while the side walls and rear are uncompromisingly plain.

The interior remains virtually untouched since the 19th century, and retains most of the original trim as well as a full complement of early pews embellished with a pleasing pattern of walnut stain combined with ochre graining. Of particular interest is the original gallery, with an unusual segregated stair and entrance hall that was almost certainly used by black parishioners.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Burrisville Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northwest corner Burrisville Road and Coon Box Road

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Burrisville Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-223

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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Sited on the northwest corner of the intersection of Burrisville Road and Coon Box Road, the Burrisville Methodist Church is the primary focal point of this small crossroads community. The Church is oriented toward the southeast, and consists of a frame building with a pitched gable roof, resting on a continuous brick foundation. It is 42 feet long and 30 feet wide.

The principal entrance is centered on the southeast gable, and consists of a pair of paneled doors with a four-light transom, set off by a pilastered door surround and an ornamental hood with a dentil block cornice. A single nine-over-nine window flanks the door on each side, and a large window with a Gothic arched opening is located directly above the door. This window is composed of two 8-light, arched sash below a Gothic quatrefoil. The upper lights of the arched sash have translucent glass, while the lower lights are clear. A small trefoil ventilator is centered in the upper gable.

The northeast facade is organized into three bays, defined with large nine-over-nine

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

windows. These are ordered in placement, but all three bays are pushed slightly toward the altar (northwest) end of the building. A brick interior stove chimney rises between the south and center bays. The southwest facade is similar, but there is a single paneled door in the south bay. This is reputed to be an entrance for slaves.

There are no windows in the northwest gable, but a small chancel with a pitched roof projects from the center of the wall. A single tall, narrow two-over-two window is located on each side wall of the chancel.

The entire building is covered with plain horizontal weatherboard siding. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a deep soffit, crown mold, and bed mold. It returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves. The cornice on the chancel is a modified version of this. The eaves are boxed in, with a crown mold applied to the fascia, and a bed mold below the soffit. It does not return at the corners, but is carried up the gable eaves. The corners are finished with plain boards on the chancel and the southwest end of the church, but the front (southeast) corners are finished with board pilasters

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

that have molded caps and banding, and the foundation breaks forward to suggest a base. This gives increased visual strength to the corners, as well as adding refinement to the principal gable facade. A cornerstone inscribed with the date "1858" is set into the base of the pilaster on the easternmost corner of this facade.

The interior consists of a single large room, with the pulpit located on a raised platform directly in front of the chancel at the northwest end of the building. A molded railing with square newels and scrolled "splat" ballusters encloses the platform. An original gallery stretches across the southeast end of the sanctuary. It is supported by two square posts flanking the center aisle, and is enclosed by a solid railing decorated with applied moldings that form two elongated panels on the front face of the gallery. There is a small closet below the northeast end of the gallery and a small, enclosed stair hall below the southwest end.

The pews are arranged on either side of a center aisle. These are of particular interest because the seats, arms, and edge moldings are stained walnut brown, while the backs and sides are painted and grained an ochre-brown color. Graining is also

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

evident on the pulpit and on the jambs and the inner faces of the doors to the closet and the stairs.

Brick stove chimneys on both side walls serve two space heaters, which are the only source of heat. A large, decorative metal chandelier with six oil lamps is suspended from the ceiling, which is finished with narrow, beaded Victorian paneling. There are two large organs dating from the Victorian period with labels identifying the manufacturer as the Cornish Company of Washington, New Jersey.

The stairway to the gallery is in the small vestibule or stairhall in the south corner of the building. This vestibule also serves the exterior door located on the southwest facade. This arrangement allows parishioners using the gallery to enter directly from the exterior, without passing through either the principal entrance or the nave. Certainly this lends credence to the tradition that both the gallery and the side door were intended for slaves and/or free blacks. The plain, unfinished state of the gallery, as well as the simple pine benches only serve to reinforce this tradition.

The interior trim is relatively restrained, and is typical of the mid-19th century. The baseboard has

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

a soft ogee molding along the upper edge, set off from the fascia by a rabbeted band. The window and door architraves consist of a flat fascia with a beaded inner edge and an ogee-astragal back band.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/29/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



QA-223  
Borrisville Methodist  
Church

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-223 Burrisville Methodist Church  
Burrisville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Front facade from East



QA-223 Burrisville Methodist Church  
Burrisville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Rear facade from West



QA-223    Burrisville Methodist Church  
          Burrisville, Maryland  
          Orlando Ridout V 1981  
          Interior View from Door



QA-223 Burrisville Methodist Church  
Burrisville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Interior View from Altar



QA-223 Burrisville Methodist Church  
Burrisville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Interior View-Gallery